

TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

A.C.A. §§ 24-7-801-808 and §§ 6-53-301 et seq.
Act 1244 of 1991, Act 1784 of 2001

DEFINITIONS

1. **Community college** means an institution of higher education established or to be established under Act 1244 of 1991 dedicated primarily to the educational needs of the service area offering a comprehensive program including, but without limitation, vocational, trade, and technical specialty courses and programs, college transfer courses, and courses in general adult education.
2. **Branch campus of a community college** means an institution with facilities located apart from the community college campus but within the community college district.
3. **Satellite college** means an institution located within a service area of a technical or community college but not located within a community college district.
4. **Technical college** means an institution of higher education established under Act 1244 of 1991 dedicated primarily to the educational needs of the service area offering a comprehensive program including, but without limitation, vocational, trade, and technical specialty courses and programs, courses in general adult education, and courses comparable in content and quality to freshman and sophomore courses which may carry transfer credit to a four-year institution in a chosen course of study.

RULES (Amended by Act 332 of 1995)

1. Effective July 1, 1991, the following institutions are designated as technical colleges and become part of the Arkansas Technical and Community College System under the coordination of the State Board of Higher Education:
 - A. Black River Vocational Technical College, Pocahontas
 - B. Cossatot Vocational Technical College, De Queen
 - C. Gateway Vocational Technical College, Batesville
 - D. Mid-South Vocational Technical College, West Memphis
 - E. Oil Belt Vocational Technical College, El Dorado
 - F. Ozark Vocational Technical College, Melbourne
 - G. Petit Jean Vocational Technical College, Morrilton
 - H. Pines Vocational Technical College, Pine Bluff
 - I. Pulaski Vocational Technical College, North Little Rock

- J. Red River Vocational Technical College, Hope
- K. Twin Lakes Vocational Technical College, Harrison

2. As provided in Act 1244 of 1991 or upon approval of the State Board of Vocational Education, the board of trustees of the receiving institution, the State Board of Higher Education, and the North Central Association - Commission on Institutions of Higher Education thereafter, a state-supported vocational-technical institution may be consolidated with a four-year institution or a two-year branch campus of a four-year institution.
3. Following approval by the North Central Association - Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, and upon approval of the board of trustees of the receiving institution, the following state-supported vocational-technical institutions and four-year institutions or two-year branch campuses of a four-year institution shall be consolidated: White River Vocational Technical School with Arkansas State University - Beebe Campus.
4. Except as provided below, effective July 1, 1991, the Mountain Home Education Center (postsecondary only) (Baxter County) shall be designated as a technical college. However, the advisory board of the Mountain Home Education Center (Baxter County) may, by resolution prior to July 1, 1991, elect not be a technical college.
5. If approved by majority vote of the qualified electors of Boone County voting in a special election before July 1, 1991, then effective July 1, 1991, Twin Lakes Technical College shall become a candidate for merger with North Arkansas Community College. However, if the voters of Boone County do not approve the measure, then Twin Lakes Technical College shall continue to be a technical college.
6. All employees who are employed by state-supported postsecondary vocational-technical schools converting to an institution under the Technical and Community College System or those employees of a two-year branch campus of a four-year institution converting to a technical or community college, shall become employees of the technical or community college, branch campus of the community college or satellite campus of the community college and shall continue their terms of employment and shall have all rights and benefits of employment, including retirement benefits, that they had when employed by the state-supported postsecondary vocational-technical schools or by the two-year branch campus of the four-year institution.
7. Each instructor and administrative staff member of a state-supported postsecondary vocational-technical school employed on July 1, 1991, shall within ninety (90) days following the transfer to the Technical and Community College System or upon transfer to the System with the approval of the board,

elect either to continue membership in the retirement plan in which he or she was enrolled prior to that date or transfer to the Teacher Retirement System or any alternate retirement plan currently established for the institution into which it is being merged or consolidated. Once such election is made, the election is irrevocable during the tenure of employment with the System.

8. Each instructor and administrative staff member of a two-year campus of a four-year institution that is later converted to a technical college or community college shall within ninety (90) days following the appointment of the local board elect either to continue membership in the retirement plan in which he or she was enrolled prior to the conversion or to transfer membership to the Teacher Retirement System. Once such election is made, the election is irrevocable during the tenure of employment with the System.
9. Any other employees of an institution transferring to the System under this act or under the approval of the board, shall remain members of the retirement system to which they were enrolled prior to the transfer.
10. A. C. A. § 24-7-1003 requires certain employees of state universities and community colleges to be enrolled in the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS) rather than the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (ATRS). Beginning November 20, 1997, those individuals first employed by the various colleges, universities, or community colleges and in pay grade of 17 and below will become members of APERS. All members of APERS who are promoted to a position Grade 18 and above will automatically become members of ATRS or the college alternate plan unless they choose to remain in APERS. (Revised November 18, 1997.)
11. Effective July 1, 2001, staff members who elect to participate in an alternate retirement plan may elect to become members of the Retirement System. Service credit forfeited while a member of an alternate retirement plan cannot be established in the Retirement System. The election to withdraw from the alternate retirement plan and become a member of the Retirement System shall be made by December 31, 2001, and notice of the election shall be made in writing and filed with the Retirement System and disbursing officer of the employing college or university by December 31, 2001.*

*The statutory basis for this subsection [A.C.A. § 24-7-807(5)(D)] was first passed in 1995; subsequent legislation changed the dates from 1995 to 1997 to 1999 to 2001.

Amended: June 15, 2004